

Oak Leaves

The Presbyterian Church
of Basking Ridge
Newsletter



September 2010

www.brpc.org

Volume LXV Issue VIII

All Are Welcome

Fall Kickoff Sunday

September 12, 2010

One Worship Service at 10 a.m. in the Sanctuary
Rev. Jones Preaching "The Purpose of Your Life"
Senior Choir Singing

Festivities Under the Oak Tree Following the Service
Games, food, fellowship, bluegrass music
Sign up for choirs, Sunday school, small groups
Discover opportunities for children, youth and adults

*Come welcome new friends and re-connect with old ones
as we worship and share in fellowship together.*

Loving God and Neighbor With All That We Are



**Sunday School
Kickoff**
September 19, 2010

For children age 3 - grade 8.
Sign up on September 12.
See pages 12 & 13 for details.

**Associate Pastor
Candidating Service
and Congregational Meeting**

Sunday, September 26, 2010
Only one service at 10 a.m.
See page 3 for details.

September Worship Schedule

Mark your calendars with this month's worship schedule:

September 5 8:30 a.m. Chapel & 10 a.m. Sanctuary
September 12 Only 10 a.m. Sanctuary (Fall Kickoff Sunday)
September 19 8:30 a.m. Chapel & 10 a.m. Sanctuary
September 26 Only 10 a.m. Sanctuary (Candidating Service)

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Staff Member - p. 6



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PASTOR'S LETTER



**Rev. Dennis
W. Jones**

djones@brpc.org
766.1616 x15

Dear Friends,

As a community of faith we celebrate "Fall Kickoff Sunday" on September 12! Building upon some fantastic traditions of the past, it's a day that you will not want to miss. There will be a single service of worship at 10 a.m., the Senior Choir will sing, and I'll be preaching a message entitled "The Purpose of Your Life."

Following worship will be a festive celebration as we shut down East Oak Street, enjoy delicious food and drink, and fellowship, and bluegrass music, all under the shade of our mighty oak. There will be special games and activities for children, and a chance to sign up for Sunday School, Small Groups, and Choirs, and to learn more about our youth ministry. More than anything, it will be a joyous morning to welcome new friends and re-connect with old ones, and to worship our almighty and loving God. It is also an ideal opportunity to bring a friend, neighbor, or family member to join you in worship. I so hope to see you there!

Each year we try to come up with a unifying theme to rally around in our life and ministry together. This year, after much prayer and conversation, we have discerned that our theme will be "Loving God and Neighbor With All That We Are." It is inspired by the stories in the gospels where Jesus is asked which commandment in all of scripture is the greatest and most important for a person of faith. And our Lord responds, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself." (Matthew 22: 37-39)

To worship, draw near to, seek communion with, and love our almighty God, and to care for, welcome, minister to, and love our neighbor, sums up the essence of who we are as a congregation. It is who we have always been, and who we hope to more fully become. It also sums up the essence of the life of faith, commitment, and obedience to which Christ calls us. With joy and clarity may we claim this identity and live out this calling in the year ahead.

Finally, you may know that after over a year of prayer, hard work, countless interviews, and abiding trust in God, our Associate Pastor Nominating Committee has completed its work and found the candidate they are convinced God is calling to be our next installed Associate Pastor: The Reverend Dr. Maureen Paterson. Sunday, September 26 is the day we will have a single service of worship at 10 a.m., Maureen will preach, and immediately following worship there will be a congregational meeting to formally act on this recommendation. I urge you to be present. I rejoice that the work of the Associate Pastor Nominating Committee has been completed, that the Holy Spirit led them to a person who already has such profound love for our church and such rare gifts for ministry, and that, if the way be clear, for the first time in over four years we will soon have two installed pastors serving our church.

In the love of Christ,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Dennis". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Dennis W. Jones
Pastor

Highlights from the June 1, 2010 Meeting

Joan Anson, Chair of the Associate Pastor Nominating Committee presented the Committee's Report on its search for an installed Associate Pastor. Session approved the calling of a meeting of the congregation on September 26, 2010, to hear the report of the APNC, to vote whether or not to call the candidate, to approve the Terms of Call, and to recommend the Call to the Presbytery in accord with the requirements of the Book of Order. The members of the Committee, Ellen Johnson, Debbie Schaub, Mike Rountree, Jane Sell, Ed Landis, Joan Anson, and Matthew Dresner, were introduced and thanked for their service and a prayer of thanks was offered by the Moderator.

Kathryn Mustaro, of the Planning Council, presented the Council's report on Small Group Ministry. Session voted to approve a small group study for six weeks from mid-October to Thanksgiving in conjunction with the Adult Ed. Council and with staff and laity support.

Chuck Miller, Chair of the Mission Council, received approval for a table during coffee hour in October for the sale of \$5 to \$30 bead bracelets and necklaces made by the women in Uganda of recycled paper. Many of the beaders are HIV+ mothers or refugees. The beaders are paid fair trade prices and all net proceeds are invested in programs for health, housing, education, and sustainable livelihood.

Nancy Bedner, Chair of the Invitation and Membership Council, presented a list of 34 members who were placed on inactive membership per request, 13 members who were deleted from membership per request, and 19 members who were deleted from membership due to lost contact.

Ruth Bashe of the Worship and Music Council received approval for a single service of worship on Sunday, September 12, 2010.

Ashley Bastow
Ruth Bashe
Nancy Bedner
Rob Brown
Dorothy Dameo
Peggy Eicher
Jim Felter
George Fricke
Charles King
Shirley Klippel
John Kuhn
Amy Melick
Chuck Miller
Linda Mills
Fran Mustaro
Claire Pratt
Mike Rountree
Molly Schulenburg
Craig Sutherland
Cindy VanderVoort
Ken Warman

Moderator

Rev. Dennis W. Jones

Clerk of Session

Dick Fryling

Assistant Clerk

Don Wadsworth

ASSOCIATE PASTOR SEARCH

September 26 Candidating Service of Dr. Maureen Paterson

The Associate Pastor Nominating Committee (APNC) joyfully invites you to the Candidating Service of Dr. Maureen Paterson, our Associate Pastor nominee, on Sunday, September 26 at 10 a.m. This service will provide an opportunity to hear Dr. Paterson preach and will lead into a congregational meeting, where a vote will be taken to act on Maureen's nomination. We will only hold one service that day so that the entire congregation can worship together and gather for the meeting.

While we have been blessed to have Maureen on staff since 2007 as the Director of Youth and Education, the APNC will be hosting events to introduce her and will provide a brochure that details her background and beliefs. We would like for everyone in the congregation to have the opportunity to get to know her better before the Candidating Service. Further information about the events will follow.

Should the way be clear following the congregational meeting, the next step is to receive approval from the Elizabeth Presbytery (the regional governing body of the Presbyterian Church USA) who is scheduled to meet on September 28.

We thank you for your prayers and support during this search process. With great joy, satisfaction and thankfulness, we are grateful to present our nominee for the next Associate Pastor to accompany us into the next chapter in the rich life of our beloved church.

In Christ's Love,

The Associate Pastor Nominating Committee

Joan Anson, *Chair*
Matthew Dresner
Ellen Johnson
Ed Landis
Mike Rountree
Debbie Schaub
Jane Sell

TRUSTEES



Youth Center Renovations

Thank you to the leadership of Dick Bedner and the faithful volunteers – boy scouts, trustees, and church members alike – who are helping with the Youth Center renovations in the lower level of the Church House. Come check it out!

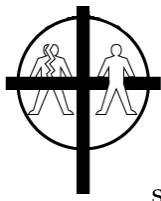
STEPHEN MINISTRY

A Message from Stephen Ministry

Have you ever thought about becoming a Stephen Minister?

Have you ever wondered about whether you might have the “gifts” needed to join our caring ministry?

Start by asking yourself this . . . have you ever been through a difficult time in your life, or thought you needed someone to speak to in complete confidence, someone to remind you that God really loves you? Or ask yourself this . . . have you ever tried to help someone get through the pain and uncertainty of illness, grief, loss of employment, loneliness, or divorce?



If the answer to either question is “yes,” you probably have all of the gifts you need to be a Stephen Minister. God gives all of us gifts and He gives many of us the spiritual gifts of caring and compassion, love and mercy, patience and understanding. And those are the only gifts you need,

because Stephen Ministry training can teach you to use those gifts in service to others who are in need of spiritual care and support. It equips us with the tools that we need to bring Christ’s love to those among us who are traveling through the valley of a life crisis. Stephen Ministers receive constant encouragement, regular continuing education and frequent care and support to help them to perform this vital work in our congregation.

People who are called to become Stephen Ministers don’t need to be able to quote from scriptures, they don’t need to be able to lead others in prayer, and they certainly don’t need to have perfect lives. In fact, most of the people that God calls to this min-

istry draw upon the tough times in their own lives, times when they felt that maybe God wasn’t listening or maybe that nobody cared about them, to help them connect with others who are suffering.

A New Training Series in February

Stephen Ministers are working constantly, quietly, faithfully, with members of our congregation and our larger community, but the need for new Stephen Ministers is great and we are planning to begin a new training series in February. As we move forward, we are asking everyone to prayerfully consider whether you have the gifts to answer this call to God’s service.

Still have questions?

Come visit us during the Kick-Off Sunday celebration on September 12 or join with us for a special program we are calling “Stephen Ministry 101” on Wednesday evening, October 20 starting at 7:15 p.m. in the Church Parlor.

For more information about becoming a Stephen Minister or to request the assistance of a Stephen Minister, contact Rev. Maureen Paterson or one of our Stephen Leaders: Joan Anson, Jane Mahan or Helen Hoens.

Interfaith Hospitality Network Hosting Week: Sept. 26 – Oct. 3



We will again be hosting IHN guests from Sunday, September 26 to Sunday, October 3. Throughout September, we invite you to stop by the sign-up table just outside Westminster Hall on Sunday mornings to learn more about this ministry and to choose how you would like to help; for example, cooking dinners, socializing with our guests, sleeping overnight, loading and unloading beds and belongings, driving the truck, picking up linens or shopping for groceries. There are so many ways to be a part of this wonderful ministry. Please stop by and check it out. I look forward to seeing you. Evelyn Gruening, Coordinator

The Hungry Are Still With Us

NJ's reported unemployment rate is at 9.5% and, with people whose benefits have run out or who have given up, many believe the actual rate is considerably higher. And, with many of the regular contributors to the food bank away on summer vacation, we're asking those who can to continue making a special effort to help feed the hungry.

So far this year, BRPC has done a marvelous job of helping -- you have contributed 258 very full bags of food and \$1810! This is awesome, and is truly appreciated by the many people you've helped! A VERY heartfelt thanks, BRPC, for your continued support of the food bank!!!

If you can help, a few tips:

- 1) Make it easy on yourself . . . there's nothing wrong with getting many cans of just a few items.
- 2) Shop just the specials, to make your donation dollars go the furthest.
- 3) Donate items that cannot be bought with Food Stamps -- baby formula, detergent, diapers, paper products, personal care items.

If you choose to donate by check, please make it payable to the Basking Ridge Presbyterian Church, and note on it that it is for the food bank. Please do not put the check in with food donations; please put it in the offering plate so it doesn't get overlooked.

We collect donations the first and third Sundays of every month.

However you decide to help, the needy do appreciate it, and may God bless you, for you are truly doing His work in feeding the hungry!!!

Help Rebuild Haiti

*A Benefit Concert
Featuring Haitian Born Piano Virtuosos*

The Altino Brothers



Sunday, October 3, 4 P.M.
The Presbyterian Church of Basking Ridge

With choirs from
The Presbyterian Church of Basking Ridge, NJ and
The Alexandria First Presbyterian Church of Hunterdon County, NJ

No tickets required. Donations will be accepted.

*All proceeds to benefit **Foundation for Peace**,
a Christian-based ground effort in Haiti which provides food
and shelter directly to the Haitian people.*

Doors open at 3:30 P.M.

Babysitting available for children ages 5 and younger.

Presented by The Presbyterian Church of Basking Ridge
One East Oak Street, Basking Ridge, NJ 07920, 908.766.1616, www.brpc.org

For information about The Altino Brothers
visit www.TheAltinoBrothers.com or call 908.996.6033.

MUSIC MINISTRIES

Have you always wanted to sing or ring in one of our choirs? Now is the time!

Singing Choirs for Teens and Adults

Mary Lou Stevens, Director

Susanna Miller, Chancel Choir Director

Chancel Choir

All youth (gr. 6 – 12) are welcome.

First rehearsal:

Sun., Sept. 19 at 6 p.m.

(Stay for pizza and Sr. Hi. Fellowship at 7:15 p.m.)

Senior Choir

All adults welcome.

First rehearsal:

Thurs., Sept. 9, 7:30 p.m.

Oratorio Choir

All youth (gr. 9–12) and adults are welcome.

First rehearsal:

Thurs., Oct. 7, 8:45 – 10 p.m.

Christmas Oratorio is Sun., Dec. 5, at 4 & 6:30 p.m.



Handbell Choirs for All Ages

Susanna Miller, Director



Alpha Bell Choir

Adults and Youth

First rehearsal:

Tues., Sept. 21 at 5:30 p.m.

Knox Bell Choir

Experienced adult ringers

First rehearsal:

Tues., Sept. 21 at 7:30 p.m.

Singing Choirs for Children

Beth Donley, Director

Cherub Choir

Ages 3 yr. - Kindergarten

First rehearsal:

Mon., Sept. 20, 3:45 – 5 p.m.

Carol Choir

Grades 1 - 2

First rehearsal:

Wed., Sept. 15, 3:45 – 4:30 p.m.

Spirit Choir

Grades 3 - 5

First rehearsal:

Wed., Sept. 15, 4:30 – 5:30 p.m.



See p.12 for more information about children's choirs and mid-week programming.

Would you like to sing or ring?

Contact Mary Lou Stevens at 908.953.9809, mstevens@brpc.org or Beth Donley at 908.500.1798, bdonley@brpc.org.

Welcome to the new Director of Music for Youth Choir and Handbells



Welcome to Susanna Miller

The members of the Personnel Council are pleased to introduce Susanna Miller as the new Director of the Chancel Choir, Alpha Bell Choir and Knox Bell Choir. Susanna will begin in September. Many of you have met her at Vacation Bible School and choir rehearsals. She will be introduced to the congregation on September 19.

Susanna has had several years of experience as Associate Director of Music and Arts at Highland Park United Methodist Church in Dallas, Texas, as well as experience as a high school choral director in Massachusetts and Texas. Susanna grew up in Texas singing in her church choirs and ringing handbells. She has a degree in music education with voice/piano concentration from Texas Christian University. Susanna is excited to begin working with our youth choir and bell choirs. We are very excited to welcome her.

PLANNING COUNCIL

Updates from the Planning Council

The Small Group Committee of the Planning Council is developing an array of new options for small groups in the areas of spiritual growth, service and fellowship. For this fall, several new spiritual growth options will be offered. The Session enthusiastically supported this initiative. Please see the "Weekly Spiritual Growth Groups" listing in the Adult Education Catalog insert starting on the next page for further information.

Other efforts of the Planning Council to develop worship alternatives and options for becoming more welcoming and inclusive are continuing.

Rob Brown
Evelyn Drake
Katja Gruening
Rev. Dennis Jones
Kathryn Mustaro
Bob Taylor

Chair
Jacob Mathew

Searching for spiritual renewal, personal reflection and Biblical learning?

The Scripture at right is spoken by our risen Lord, and is his last commandment to us. Certainly, we cannot teach until we have learned. Therefore, we (the Adult Education Committee) invite you to join us in the many interesting educational opportunities happening in the next five months.

The AEC will also be striving together to create and schedule new opportunities for study and spiritual growth in 2011. If you have any ideas for new small groups or study topics, please contact Dr. Maureen Paterson in the church office, or Ken Warman, Committee chair, at 908-766-0490.

We look forward to growing our community of faith and increasing our involvement with learning in the months ahead. Please plan to attend an Adult Forum or join a small group for study!

All authority in heaven and earth has been given to me. Go therefore and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and lo I am with you always, to the close of the age.

Matthew 28:18-20

Sunday Morning Forums

11:30 a.m. in the Church House Parlor (Childcare can be provided if pre-arranged.)

Migration of Presbyterians to USA

Sunday, September 19

Led by Dr. Janet Fishburn

The history of the earliest Presbyterian congregations in the colonies prior to the American Revolution is that of a trickle rather than a flood. Unlike massive Puritan emigrations from England to New England in the 17th century, Presbyterians came from England, Scotland and Ireland. The largest number of Presbyterian settlers were the Scots-Irish, who came to the states from Ireland where they experienced persecution unknown in Scotland in the 18th century. Among the settlers were people from the state church in Scotland as well as two groups of "dissenters" (Covenanters and Seceders) who protested the lax state of the Presbyterian Church in Scotland. I will tell the story of the early settlements with special attention to Presbyterian devotion to freedom of religion and the role of the sacramental season in their practice of piety.

Dr. Janet Fishburn has published articles about Presbyterian history such as *Gilbert Tennent: Established Dissenter*, *Pennsylvania Awakenings*, *Sacramental Seasons and Ministry*, and *Theological Education, A Reformed Imperative*. She has led adult seminars on topics like *The Great Ends of the Church and How Reformed Are We?* In recent years she has led adult seminars at BRPC on *The Church, The Bible and Sexual Ethics* (2004), *The Ordination of Women* (2006) and *PCUSA Ordination Policy* (2009). She is retired from the faculty of The Theological and Graduate Schools of Drew University where she taught church history and teaching ministry. She is a clergy member of Newton Presbytery and recently completed a six-year term on the Presbytery Judicial Commission.



BRPC: A History

Sunday, October 17

Led by George Fricke

In 1731 when the first log structure was erected, the great oak was already over three hundred years old. A number of our former ministers still "reside" under this magnificent tree, but there are other notable members who have impacted our growth as well as various historical events which have helped shape who we are today. Our church has a long and glorious history and we will take a glimpse into the past during this forum.

George Fricke currently serves on the church's Cemetery Heritage Committee and is chair of the Historical Records Committee. He served as Clerk of Session for almost 10 years. In these positions, he has been working with our historical and burial records for over 22 years and has gleaned a great deal of knowledge about our church. As a result, he has become the de facto Historian of our church. George was first ordained an Elder in 1961 at the First Presbyterian Church in Whippany, New Jersey. Since moving to Basking Ridge in 1965, he has served as an active Elder on Session for a total of 13 years. He and his wife Carol have been married for 61 years, have a son and a daughter, five granddaughters, two great granddaughters and a great grandson.



Compassionate Communication

Sunday, October 31

Led by Linda Mills

Learn how we can create an atmosphere of love and compassion for ourselves as well as others. Being compassionate is not about being nice; it is about being authentic with caring, respect and kindness for ourselves and others. Come discover:

- How to Communicate with “Difficult” People
- How to Speak My Truth While Respecting Others
- How to Get My Needs Met Without Making Others Wrong
- How to Deal with “Difficult” Emotions

Linda Mills, a member and elder of the Basking Ridge Presbyterian Church, has had extensive training in and been practicing, teaching and coaching Compassionate Communication for many years.



Presbyterian Disaster Relief

Sunday, November 7

Led by Bruce McGraw

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA), a ministry of the Presbyterian Church (USA), works with partners around the globe, typically responding to about 30 international and 20 US human and natural disasters each year. Using the motto, *Out of Chaos, Hope*, PDA provides basic humanitarian relief of food, water, shelter, and emotional support for those affected by disasters. PDA provides training in disaster preparedness and long-term response, housing for volunteers, clean up, repairs, building, and psychosocial services for disaster responders and survivors. Its core budget comes from the annual *One Great Hour of Sharing*, usually taken by PC (USA) congregations during Easter, and from donations designated for specific disasters.

Bruce McGraw has been a member of the Presbyterian Church in Lawrenceville, NJ since 1982, serving on Session for two separate terms. He has been a leader or member of teams to assist with the recovery from Katrina on the Gulf coast. He is a member of the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance National Response Team, responding to human and natural disasters around the country. He is chair of his church's Haiti Task Force, and has led seven medical teams to Haiti since 1991. The most recent visit arrived just hours before the massive earthquake on January 12, 2010.



Advent Series: Dig Deeper

Sundays, November 28, December 5, 12, 19

Led by Dr. Maureen Paterson

Advent leads us to the most wonderful miracle of our faith: the birth of our Saviour in a stable in Bethlehem. We (the Adult Education Committee) invite you to join Pastor Maureen for an informal and spirit-building discussion of that morning's sermon. Coffee and bagels will be provided. Please join us and share your interest and knowledge about this glorious series of events.

Dr. Maureen Paterson is in her third year leading Bible study and forums. Before joining the staff of The Presbyterian Church of Basking Ridge in 2007, Maureen served as Associate Pastor for Christian Education and Youth in Raeford, NC for over 6 years, as well as in various positions within the Presbytery of Coastal Carolina. In May 2009, Maureen received her Doctor of Ministry from Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, Georgia with a focus in Christian Spirituality.



Our Immigrant Neighbors

Sunday, January 9, 2011

Led by Chris Whitlock

The Somerset Hills is home to a large and diverse immigrant population. Many individuals in this population face social, economic, and language barriers. Local organizations and volunteers struggle to help our immigrant neighbors overcome these hurdles. In this program, a panel of individuals who work with our immigrant population will discuss their work and share ideas for helping our neighbors.

Chris Whitlock has been a member of BRPC for ten years. She has served as an elder, Adult Education Committee member, Sunday School teacher, and bell choir member. Chris is a chemistry teacher at Bernards High, and has taught high school science for over 20 years. Chris enjoys family celebrations, outdoor adventures, and settling down with a good book.



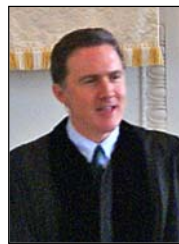
State of the Church

Sunday, January 16

Led by Rev. Dennis Jones

At the one-year mark of his installation as senior pastor, Rev. Dennis Jones will reflect on his impressions of the significant changes that we've undertaken as a community of faith. He will also reflect on the challenges, changes, and new ministry initiatives that are yet to come. Generous time will be included for discussion.

Reverend Jones grew up in Basking Ridge, served as a police officer, attended Princeton Theological Seminary, has been ordained for 20 years, and arrived as our pastor in 2009. He loves growing closer to Christ, getting to know those who are newcomers to our church, riding motorcycles, walking, and watching the TV program, *The Office*. By his good fortune, he is married to Emily and they have a four year old daughter Teresa who has quickly fallen in love with this church.



Small Group Opportunities

Women's Meditation Group

Wednesdays, 8:30-9:25 a.m., Church Library, Shared Leadership

Join this small group of women who meet at 8:30 a.m. on Wednesday mornings in the Church House Library for an hour of prayer and meditation. New participants are welcome at any time. Call Marilyn King, 908-766-5609, for further information.

Women's Bible Study Group

Wednesdays, 9:30-11:30 a.m., Church Parlor, Led by Dr. Maureen Paterson

Women's Wednesday Morning Bible Study will begin on September 15 with a new 10 week study on significant women of the Bible. We will study the impact of these important women and the way that God worked through them to shape others and change lives. Some of the women we will look at are Eve, Rahab, Deborah, Hannah, Mary Magdalene and Lydia. Plan to join us on Wednesday mornings at 9:30 a.m. for a time of fellowship, prayer and study. New members are always welcome, so come along when you can.

Presbyterian Women Circle

Once a month, Thursdays, 12:30 p.m., Church House Parlor

Presbyterian Women (PW) is the national women's organization of the Presbyterian Church (USA). PW is organized at all levels in synods, presbyteries and congregations. At BRPC, all women are invited to join the ongoing Mary Circle. This year, they will be studying "Joshua: A Journey of Faith." If interested in joining, contact Jean Swanson at 908-647-1277.

Time-Out

Thursday, 10-11a.m., Church Nursery

Come make a connection at Time-Out, a small group for mothers of infants/toddlers. This group meets weekly to share in a time of fellowship while getting to know one another and our children. This is a drop-in group – so come when your schedule permits to play, laugh and learn together! Questions? Contact Dr. Maureen Paterson in the church office.

Tuesday Evening Group

Tuesdays, 7:30 p.m., Church Member's Home

You are welcome to join a group that will begin discussions on spiritual growth topics starting in late September or early October on Tuesday evenings at 7:30 p.m. We will be meeting at the home of Bob and Eleanor Taylor in Basking Ridge. We will be exploring together various short articles or readings from the Bible, including topics suggested by group members. If you would like more information on topics or our meeting dates, contact Ellen Greenhorn at 908-766-2512.

Ministry of Moms Sharing (MOMS)

This group is open to all mothers and meets several times during the year, with adjustments for school schedules. Planned activities will be announced in advance in *Oak Leaves* and the church bulletin. For further information or the current schedule, contact Karen Hilde at 908-781-6854.

Friday Evening Book Group

First and Third Fridays, 8 p.m., Church Library

We will begin on September 17 with Anne Lamott's book *Traveling Mercies*, a chronicle of faith that is tough, personal, affectionate, wise and very funny. Lamott tells how, against all odds, she came to believe in God and then, even more miraculously, in herself. She shows the myriad ways in which this sustains and guides her, shining the light of faith on the darkest part of ordinary life and exposing surprising pockets of meaning and hope. Lamott is the author of seven books, including the highly acclaimed *Bird by Bird: Some Instructions on Writing and Life* (1995) and *Operating Instructions: A Journal of My Son's First Year* (1993). She is also a political activist, public speaker and acclaimed writing teacher. She lives in northern California with her son. Discussion leadership is shared among participants. All are welcome. Questions? Contact Evelyn Drake at 908-766-9282

Men's Coffee and Conversation

Saturdays, 7:30 a.m., Church Library

No preparation and no homework required for this informal men's group that gathers in the Church House on Saturdays – first around the coffee maker in the kitchen, then in the parlor or the library for conversation and study. This summer, the group started studying "Becoming a Blessed Church." Walk-ins are always welcome. For more information, call Jim Felter, 908-221-0630.

Sunday Morning Book Group

Sundays, 11:15 a.m., Church Library

What happens when women pray? Are you curious? Beginning Sept. 19, we are starting a book discussion group at 11:15 a.m. on Sunday mornings to explore this topic. The book "What Happens When Women Pray" by Evelyn Christenson is a practical and biblical book about prayer. All are welcome. Please call Jane Sell at 973-889-0655 or contact the church office by Sept. 12 so we can purchase the books needed.

Sunday Evening Group

Sundays, 7:30 p.m., Church Members' Homes

Come join a reading and discussion group that meets on Sunday evenings in members' homes. All are welcome. Contact Karen Johnson for more information, 973-543-7532.

Weekly Spiritual Growth Groups

Various times and Locations

For this fall, several spiritual growth options will be offered, which will be similar to the *Beatitude* series studied during Lent. Options include *Exploring the Way*, *Living the Questions* and the NOOMA DVD series. Sign ups begin September 12 and the groups will meet from October 10-November 14 at varying times and locations. Contact Kathryn Mustaro at 908-221-1321 for more information.

GriefShare

Mondays, 7-9 p.m.

Liberty Corner Presbyterian Church, Liberty Corner

If you've lost a spouse, child, family member or friend, consider gaining support from this small group program based on the Bible. GriefShare small groups meet weekly and are led by people who understand and want to help. For more information, contact Jan Pletscher at 908-766-6994. For descriptions of the GriefShare program, visit <http://www.griefshare.org>.

Vacation Bible School

Our church is blessed and thankful to have such wonderful children and wonderful teachers. Vacation Bible School, the Son Harvest County Fair was a huge success! This year, our week focused on Galatians 5:22-23. Each day the student learned to Grow Love, Sprout Joy, Plant Peace, Produce Patience and Pick Kindness through lessons, games, music and snacks.

This year we were blessed to have over 20 adult volunteers and 47 students participate in the County Fair.

Our kids went hog wild for our favorite ranch-hands Cowboy Tex and Cowboy Dennis each morning as they demonstrated how the lessons we learn from Jesus can help us everyday. We also loved the fresh farm stand snacks prepared by Joanne Howell. Our Blue Ribbon Crafts were designed and created with the help of Heather Creelman. Beth Donley led our line dancing in great style in music while Andrea Alacon joined the kids in some romping recreation games. Together we helped the kids grow a rich harvest of the fruit of the Spirit.



Thank You Summer Sunday School Teachers

Thank you for sharing
God's love with our
youngest members
throughout the summer:

- Beth Biondo*
- Karen Cokewood*
- Heather Creelman*
- Peggy Eicher*
- Emily Jones*
- Jon, Margaret, & Alex Klippel*
- Shirley Klippel*
- Nancy & John Kuhn*
- Betsy Miller*
- Anne Pinto*
- Claire Pratt*
- Debbie Schaub*
- Joanna Stevens*

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

Sunday School Kicks Off on September 19, Sign up on Sept. 12

Pre-school Sunday School: Building a Solid Foundation

All children ages two through pre-K are invited to join us for a new year of Sunday School. On Sunday mornings, children gather with their teachers immediately following the children's message at the 10 a.m. service, in the Rankin Room (2/3 year olds) or the Finley Room (4/5 year olds). We will continue to use the *Rock Solid* curriculum which is aimed at building a solid foundation of faith for our youngest members.

K-5 Sunday School:

First Rotation - *The Burning Bush and Other Images of God*

We look forward to welcoming all students in kindergarten through fifth grade during the 10 a.m. service, following the children's message, in the Church House Lower Level. We will continue to use the *PowerXpress Rotation Curriculum* that was so well-loved by students and teachers last year. Class runs until 11:15 a.m.

Fall Kickoff Sunday: Games, Prizes and Sign Ups!



All families are invited to attend the festivities of Fall Kick-Off Sunday on September 12. Games, activities and prizes will be available for our youngest members. Parents - this is your opportunity to register children for Sunday School and the mid-week Spirit and Little Spirit programs. We also invite you to sign up to teach or assist with one of our many classes. Children & Family Ministry Committee members will be circulating throughout the morning to answer any questions. We look forward to seeing you there!

MID-WEEK SPIRIT PROGRAM

Spirit Begins Wednesday, September 15

Children in grades 1 through 5 are invited to join us for this midweek ministry on Wednesday afternoons from 3:45 - 5:30 p.m.

Spirit is:

A Time for Fellowship

Children gather at 3:45 p.m. in Westminster Hall to greet friends.

A Time for Building Faith

Through Bible lessons and games, the BibleZoneLive! curriculum is taught to equip children with a solid Christian foundation to help them make smart choices everyday.

BibleZoneLive! – Grades 3 – 5: 3:45-4:30 p.m.

BibleZoneLive! – Grades 1&2: 4:30-5:30 p.m.

A Time for Singing Praise to God

Our children's choirs provide an opportunity for children to find their singing voices and use them to praise God in worship! (Children sing in worship one Sunday each month and on Christmas Eve.) We will have fun singing, learning basic music reading, playing instruments, learning Bible stories reflected in the weekly texts and preparing for worship leadership.

Carol Choir – Grades 1&2: 3:45 – 4:30 p.m.

Spirit Choir – Grades 3 – 5: 4:30 – 5:30 p.m.

A Time for Family and Food

Family dinners are held throughout the program year. (Adults \$5, Siblings \$3, Family Cap \$15.)

Sunday School Teachers Needed



Teaching materials and activities are provided. If available to help, please contact Dr. Maureen Paterson at mpaterson@bprc.org or 908.766.1616 x14. Thank You!

Little Spirit Begins Monday, September 20

Children 3 years old through kindergarten meet on Mondays from 3:45 - 5:00 p.m. for snack, fellowship, Bible stories and the Cherub Choir.

Sign up for Spirit and Little Spirit on Fall Kickoff Sunday or contact Beth Donley at 908.953.9809 with any questions.



MIDDLE SCHOOL

Middle School Fellowship Begins Wednesday, September 15

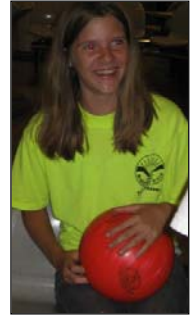
Get ready for another great year of fellowship! We meet on Wednesday evenings from 6:15-7:30 in the Church House Lower Level. We gather for dinner and then take part in a variety of activities. Come along and bring a friend!

Middle School Sunday School Begins September 19

Join us for Sunday School from 10:15-11:15 a.m. in the Church House Library. The program focuses on Bible centered topics such as "How to Make Great Choices" and "Why God Made Me."



Middle School Handbells at Vacation Bible School, August 9-13, 2010



Middle School Bowling Night, August 4, 2010



HIGH SCHOOL

Senior High Fellowship Begins Sunday, Sept. 19

Come at 7:15 for Pizza! We are looking forward to a great year of faith and fellowship! We will meet for fellowship on Sunday evenings, in the Church House Lower Level, from 7:15-9 p.m. Our new year begins on September 19. Please watch for details about our first night of fun.

Bible Study Begins Wednesday, September 22



Starting in the fall, join us for Bible Study on Wednesday evenings from 7:30-9 p.m. at the home of church member Claire Pratt. The evening begins by sharing in a time of fellowship, while enjoying fresh baked cookies, then moves on to a study of the Bible. To join in this lively group, contact Claire Pratt at 908.647.7539.

Confirmation

All 9th and 10th grade students are invited to attend Confirmation class beginning in the fall. This program focuses on Biblical content, theology and faith formation and will prepare students to become active members of the congregation. Please watch for details about start date and time.

Forty two high school students and 12 advisors traveled to the Carpenter's Boat Shop in Pemaquid, Maine from July 10-18, 2010 for the Annual Youth Workcamp to help rebuild houses of those in need.



CHURCH FAMILY

Births

Carter Alexander McCroskey, son of Meg and Sean McCroskey, grandson of Betsey Hall, great-grandson of Jean Sidar, born July 21, 2010.

Weddings

Brian Curtis and Julia Yanenko, married July 24, 2010.

Deaths

Prayers of help and comfort for the families of:

Father of Linda Mills, on his death July 23, 2010.

Ruth Stout, mother of Steve Stout, on her death, July 27, 2010.

Lorraine Nevins, on her death July 30, 2010.

Father of Lori Halivopoulos, on his death July 31, 2010.

Tom Swan, on his death, July 31, 2010.

Arthur Dudley, on his death, August 6, 2010.

(If you would like to sign up for email notifications of losses in our church family, please contact Cara Burchett at 908.766.1616 x19 or cburchett@brpc.org.)

Exploring Membership Class

We extend a warm invitation to our next "Exploring Membership" class, on Sunday, October 10, 2010 at 11:30 a.m. in the Church House Parlor (located across the street from the Sanctuary). This is an excellent opportunity to share about your own faith journey, and learn more about the beliefs and ministry of our church.

Toward the end of the class, you will have an opportunity to meet with members of our Session (the governing body for Presbyterian churches) and prayerfully consider whether you feel called to formally become a member and affirm, or re-affirm, your faith in Jesus Christ. Lunch will be served and childcare will be provided. We promise to send you home by 2 p.m. New members from this class will be welcomed into membership at worship on Sunday, October 17 at 10 a.m. If interested in attending, please contact the church office at 908.766.1616.

Helping Families in our Church Community

The Deacons are looking for one or more people to fill a short term (six month) Hospitality leadership position supporting refreshment receptions following funeral and memorial services. This is an opportunity to provide an important supporting role in helping congregation members during their time of need. Responsibilities include coordinating volunteers and communicating with Church staff. If you are interested, short or long term, please contact Jenny Speal at 908.625.4455.

First Men's Luncheon of the Season on Sept. 16

The first Men's Luncheon Fellowship will be held at 12 noon on Thursday, September 16 in the Church House Parlor. Chef Gary Ingram is promising another fabulous meal. The guest speaker will be Peter Palmer, the former mayor of Bernardsville, who will reflect on the future of New Jersey's municipalities given the current budget crisis at the state level. Call the Church office at 766.1616 to make a reservation; cost is a donation of \$7.

SIMPLE WAYS TO SAVE

Have you tried Good Search.com yet?

We started using the on-line search engine and shopping mall at GoodSearch.com and so far we've earned **\$677.46**. Will you join us in our efforts?

Please help us with this simple fundraiser by designating the "Basking Ridge Presbyterian Church" as the "group you goodsearch for" on the homepage of Goodsearch.com. Each search earns one penny and each purchase earns, on average, 3% of the purchase cost. Hundreds of stores participate including Amazon, Staples, Ebay, Zappos...

Every penny counts, so please give GoodSearch a try!

Recycle Your Inkjet Cartridges Here!

We are recycling empty inkjet printer cartridges through a program called Empties 4 Cash and so far we've earned **\$332.12**. Thanks for the donations and keep those cartridges coming!

Any inkjet cartridge (no laser toner) with a print head can be recycled, regardless of brand or type. Bring in your empty cartridges (placed in the original box or ziploc bag to prevent spills/damages) to the church house office or place in the Westminster Hall collection box.

September

Upcoming Special Events Sundays in September

September 5

Communion Sunday

September 12



*Fall Kickoff Sunday
(Only one service at 10 a.m.)*

September 19

*Sunday School Begins
Adult Education Forums Begin*

September 26

*Candidating Service for Dr. Paterson
Followed by a Congregational Meeting
(Only one service at 10 a.m.)*

IHN Hosting Week Begins

September 2010						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		



A Typical Fall Week at the Church

SUNDAY

- Worship 8:30 & 10 a.m.
- Sunday School 10:15 a.m.
- Coffee Hour 11:15 a.m.
- Adult Education Forum 11:30 a.m.
- Book Group 11:15 a.m.
- Chancel Choir 6:00 p.m.
- Senior High Fellowship 7:15 p.m.
- Adult Small Group Study 7:30 p.m.

MONDAY

- Little Spirit 3:45 p.m.
- Tai Chi 6:30 p.m.
- Council and Board Meetings 7:30 p.m.

TUESDAY

- Oak Tree Quilters 9:30 a.m.
- Alpha Bell Choir 5:30 p.m.
- Knox Bell Choir 7:30 p.m.
- Adult Small Group Study 7:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

- Women's Meditation Group 8:30 a.m.
- Women's Bible Study 9:30 a.m.
- Children's Spirit Program 3:45 p.m.
- Middle School Fellowship 6:15 p.m.
- Senior High Bible Study 7:30 p.m.

THURSDAY

- Time Out Mother's Group 10:00 a.m.
- Boy Scout Troop #351 7:30 p.m.
- Senior Choir 7:30 p.m.

SATURDAY

- Men's Coffee & Conversation 7:30 a.m.



*Therefore encourage one another
and build each other up, as indeed
you are doing. The grace of our
Lord Jesus Christ be with you.*

I Thessalonians 5:11, 28

Statement of Purpose

Basking Ridge Presbyterian Church

God calls the Basking Ridge Presbyterian Church to be a living community and light to the world, guided by the Holy Spirit and transmitting God's love revealed through Christ Jesus. In response to God's call, we seek to realize the Kingdom of God as we

- WELCOME** everyone into our community with open arms,
- CARE** for each other both in times of joy and in times of sorrow,
- WORSHIP** together creatively and enthusiastically in gratitude to God,
- PREPARE** each other through Bible-based education and open discussion to
- SERVE** Jesus Christ as disciples in local and global ministry and to
- SHARE** our wealth, time, talents and faith with the world.

Oak Leaves

is published monthly
by and for members and friends of
The Presbyterian Church
1 East Oak Street
Basking Ridge, New Jersey 07920
908.766.1616
www.brpc.org

We welcome news about your family,
friends, and church activities. Submit
articles and photographic materials to
the editor —
1 East Oak St., fax: 766-4450,
or e-mail: oakleaves@brpc.org.

**The deadline for articles for the
October issue is September 12.**

Editor reserves the right to condense copy.

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Joanna Wittig

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Temporary Associate Pastor

Rev. William “Tex” Culton – x11

Director of Youth and Education

Dr. Maureen Paterson – x14

Parish Associate

Rev. Bob Beringer

Pastors Emeriti

Dr. J. Calvin K. Jackson

Dr. James Morris

Minister of Music

Mary Lou Stevens – 953.9809

Director of Children’s Music

Beth Donley – 953.9809

Director of Youth & Handbell Choirs

Susanna Miller

Church Administrator

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Pam Meyers (M,W) – x21

Lisa-Ann Smith (Th.) – x21

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Cara Burchett – x19

Administrative Assistant for Membership and Education Ministries

Pam Smith - x12

Communications Coordinator

Joanna Wittig – x17

Sexton Staff

Peter O’Connor – x16

David Brownlee

SERMONS AND SERVICES FOR SEPTEMBER 2010 8:30 A.M. CHAPEL — 10 A.M. SANCTUARY

- September 5** Communion Sunday
Scripture: Psalm 139: 1-6, 13-18 and Acts 17:16-28
Sermon: *No Generic God* *Katja Gruening*
- September 12** Fall Kickoff Sunday
Only one service at 10 a.m. in the Sanctuary
Scripture: Exodus 3: 1-12; Ephesians 1: 11
Sermon: *The Purpose of Your Life* *Rev. Dennis W. Jones*
- September 19** 25th Sunday of Ordinary Time
Scripture: Deuteronomy 6: 4-9; Mark 12: 28-34
Sermon: *Loving God and One Another with All that We Are*
Rev. Dennis W. Jones
- September 26** Associate Pastor Candidating Service
Only one service at 10 a.m. in the Sanctuary
Congregational Meeting following service
Dr. Maureen Paterson

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**Fall
Kickoff
Sunday**
September 12, 2010

Time Sensitive Mail
Please Deliver Immediately
August 20, 2010